CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A method in a data processing system for preventing
2. exchange of viruses, the method comprising:
3. maintaining preexisting content for a device in a first
4. location;
5. placing new data associated with the device in a second
6. location, wherein the new information is an update to the
7. preexisting content;
8. combining the preexisting data and the new content in a
9. third location to form merged content; and
10. performing a check for viruses on the merged content
11. prior to performing a transfer of the new content.

1. 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2. sending the merged content to the device if a virus is
1. absent from the merged content.

1. 3. The method of claim A1 further comprising:
2. storing the merged content as the preexisting content if
3. a virus is absent from the merged content.

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1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a wireless

2   device.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the device is one of a

2   personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, a wireless

3   telephone, and a personal computer.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is a

2   hard disk drive in the data processing system.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is a

2   hard disk drive in a storage system remote to the data

3   processing system.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the third location is a

2   random access memory in the data processing system.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of placing,

2   maintaining, and performing are initiated in response to a

3   synchronization process between the data processing system

4   and the device.

1   10. A method in a data processing system for preventing

2   transmission of viruses, comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a request to synchronize a device;

4   identifying new content associated with the device;

5   combining the new content with existing content to form

6   merged content; and

7   checking the merged content for viruses prior to

8   synchronizing the device.

1   11. The method of claim 10, wherein the new content is

2   content received from the device.

1   12. The method of claim 10, wherein the new content is

2   content to be sent to the device.

1   13. A data processing system comprising:

2   a bus system;

3   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory

4   includes as set of instructions; and

5   a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein

6   the processing unit executes the set of instructions to

7   maintain preexisting content for a device in a first

8   location, place new content associated with the device in a

9   second location, wherein the new information is an update to

10   the preexisting content, combine the preexisting content and

11   the new content in a third location to form merged content,

12   and perform a check for viruses on the merged content.

1   14.   The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus

2   system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

1   15.   The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus

2   system comprises a single bus.

1   16.   The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the

2   processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

1   17.   The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the

2   processing unit includes a single processor.

1   18.   A data processing system for preventing exchange of

2   viruses, the data processing system comprising:

3   maintaining means for maintaining preexisting content

4   for a device in a first location;

5   placing means for placing new content associated with

6   the device in a second location, wherein the new content is

7   an update to the preexisting content;

8   combining means for combining the preexisting content

9   and the new content in a third location to form merged

10 content; and

11   performing means for performing a check for viruses on

12 the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the new

13 content.

1   19. The data processing system of claim 18 further

2   comprising:

3   sending means for sending the merged content to the

4   device if a virus is absent from the merged content.

1   20. The data processing system of claim 18 further

2   comprising:

3   storing means for storing the merged content as the

4   preexisting content if a virus is absent from the merged

5   content.

1   21. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the

2   device is a wireless device.

1   22. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the

2   device is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop

3   computer, a wireless telephone, and a personal computer.

1   23. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the

2   first location is a hard disk drive in the data processing

3   system.

1   24. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the

2   first location is a hard disk drive in a storage system

3   remote to the data processing system.

1   25. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the

2   third location is a random access memory in the data

3   processing system.

1   26. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the

2   steps of placing, maintaining, and performing are initiated

3   in response to a synchronization process between the data

4   processing system and the device.

1   27. A data processing system for preventing transmission of

2   viruses

3   receiving means for receiving a request to synchronize a

4   device;

5   identifying means for identifying new content associated

6   with the device;

7   combining means for combining the new content with

8   existing content to form merged content; and

9   checking means for checking the merged content for

10 viruses prior to synchronizing the device.

1   28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the new

2   content is content received from the device.

1   29. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the new

2   content is content to be sent to the device.

1   30. A computer program product in a computer readable medium

2   for use in a data processing system for preventing exchange

3   of viruses, the computer program product comprising:

4   first instructions for maintaining preexisting content

5   for a device in a first location;

6   second instructions for placing new content associated

7   with the device in a second location, wherein the new

8   information is an update to the preexisting content;

9   third instructions for combining the preexisting content

10 and the new content in a third location to form merged

11 content; and

12   fourth instructions for performing a check for viruses

13   on the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the

14   new content.

1   31. A computer program product in a computer readable medium

2   for use in a data processing system for preventing

3   transmission of viruses, the computer program product

4   comprising:

5   first instructions for receiving a request to

6   synchronize a device;

7   second instructions for identifying new content

8   associated with the device;

9   third instructions for combining the new content with

10   existing content to form merged content; and

11   fourth instructions for checking the merged content for

12   viruses prior to synchronizing the device.